

# VIETNAM COURIER

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## South Viet Nam

- ★ A U.S. Armoured Unit Completely Destroyed in Five Minutes South-Southeast of Da Nang; a Post Near Chu Lai Defended by Two U.S. and One Puppet Platoon Wiped Out in 20 Minutes.
- ★ 850 Enemy Troops (Mostly G.I.s) Killed or Wounded North of Quang Tri Province.
- ★ New Enemy Setback in A So Region: 308 Men Put out of Action, 11 Aircraft Downed.
- ★ 23 Enemy Vessels (Including Two 8,000 and 12,000-Ton Cargo Boats) Damaged, Burnt or Sunk in Many Engagements in Nam Bo.

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## North Viet Nam

UP TO AUGUST 15, 1968

3,098 U.S. aircraft were downed

O Lau (South Viet Nam) River guerrillas

THE Vietnamese people's victorious resistance to the huge American war machine is and will remain for many an inexorable phenomenon, or at least one which calls for explanation. One of the essential reasons for this lies in the fact that many foreign observers have but an inadequate grasp of the origins of the Vietnamese revolution. In an era characterized by the instability of organizations and regimes, the Vietnamese revolutionary

— the country was in full political effervescence; all social strata were participating in multiple actions, putting forward national and democratic demands, and carrying on the struggle in the most varied forms; — that multiform movement was however under a single leadership, all social strata and popular organizations having recognized the leadership of the Communist Party, the only party to have

## We Call On World Public Opinion To Stay U.S. Aggressors' Bloody Hands

— NHAN DAN Editorial, August 13, 1968 —

## In the Light of August 1945

movement, like the D.R.V.N. government, which stems therefrom, strikes by its persistence and continuity. For more than a quarter of a century, three imperialist powers, France, Japan then the United States, have vainly sought to smother it and to hamper its march forward. Now more than ever, as the Vietnamese people, united and resolved, are pursuing their struggle, reaping ever more important victories, an accurate knowledge of the origins of the Vietnamese revolution is indispensable.

set forth a consistent political program and adequate forms of action and organization.

French colonialist repression made harder under pretext of the war and Japanese occupation from 1940 to 1945 could neither check the movement nor deprive it of leadership. The Communist Party immediately oriented the national movement towards getting ready for the reconquest of independence and the taking over of power. The necessary political organizations and armed forces were set up, and the entire people engaged in multiple daily actions, in which they became battle-seasoned and acquired the indispensable political and military experience.

ALTHOUGH for more than a century the Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence had never ceased, one may say that the present revolution, after the stormy assaults of workers and peasants in 1930 and the political awakening of masses in 1956, took shape in the 1940's. When World War Two started, the situation in Viet Nam was characterized by two facts of capital importance:

While tiny nationalist groups, such as the Dai Viet, spread the illusion that the Japanese would help the Vietnamese people reconquer their independence the Viet Minh front was for resolute and unequivocal opposition to both French colonialism and Japanese fascism.

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PROGRESSIVE mankind is bringing in at the tribunal of conscience a verdict against the biggest war criminal of the world today—the verdict on the crimes of aggression and war crimes committed by the U.S. aggressors on the Vietnamese land. These crimes have been piled up higher than the mountains and thicker than the earth. To the old crimes have been added new ones, each more serious than the last, which have the utter barbarity of the aggressors on the path to doom.

ACCORDING to the Viet Nam Committee for Investigation of U.S. Imperialists and Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam, since early this year these crimes have taken the form of the following offenses: heavy destruction of hundreds of towns and cities with unheard-of atrocities; massacre of the civilian population with bombs and bullets and weapons banned by international law; frantic application of the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy; herding of the population into concentration camps; destruction of many cultural monuments, historical relics, churches, pagodas, hospitals and schools; barbarous killing of patriots; heinous robbery of rice, paddy and other property of the town and country people.

As a result of the crimes of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, 80% of the Hue city structures have been destroyed, the Da Lat town and the capitals of My Tho and

Ben Tre province heavily devastated; the towns of Pleiku, Kon Tum, Cam Thuan, from 50% to 60%, and the towns of Ban Me Thuot, Phan Thiet and Vinh Long, from 30% to 40% demolished. In Saigon, tens of thousands of houses have been reduced to heaps of rubble, tens of thousands of civilians killed or wounded and hundreds of thousands of others rendered homeless. Yet, according to the New York Times of May 24, 1968, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen still claim that it is necessary to raze to the ground the Cho Lon area inhabited by over 600,000 people in execution of their so-called "plan to defend Saigon." Also as a result of the crimes of the U.S. and its henchmen, many heavily populated rural areas have been devastated, such as Cam Lo district, Quang Tri province, where 268 out of the 316 hamlets have been leveled (fired by American bombs and shells) or Huong Tri district, Thua Thien province, where "all the houses have been reduced to rubble and the damage was rated 100%," as Radio Saigon reported on February 26.

Having arrogantly delineated "free-fire" areas, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have been committing a large number of their air attacks, including B-52 strategic bombers, to maintain raids in all parts of South Viet Nam, and perpetrating innumerable crimes, according to AP on July 11, 1968, the quantity of bombs dropped by American planes in the area surrounding Saigon in 40 days

equaled the tonnage dropped on South Viet Nam in the three years of 1962, 1963 and 1964 taken together. UPI disclosed on June 26, 1968 that the weight of bombs used by the U.S. in Viet Nam since 1965 had reached 2,200,000 tons, greater than the total used by the U.S. throughout World War II.

In the first half of this year, the U.S. and its henchmen sprayed gas and toxic chemicals on nearly 30 provinces in South Viet Nam. Moreover, as reported by the British paper Guardian on June 25, they are planning to spend 70.8 million dollars on chemicals for the period between July 1st, 1968 and July 31, 1969, that is 50% more than in 1967. They burnt thousands of square kilometers of the U Minh jungle, committed monstrous massacres in Dien Ban (Quang Nam province), Son My (Quang Ngai province), and elsewhere; dropped bombs and opened fire constantly on the prisons in Quang Ngai province and in Phan Tai and Phu My (Binh Dinh province)...

IN North Viet Nam, the crimes of the U.S. aggressors have been also piling up. Six cities and 80% of the provincial capitals and district towns have been subjected to intensive air raids and naval bombardments. In 40% of these towns and cities not a single house has been left standing. Hundreds of villages have been destroyed by

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# PARADE OF 'TALKS' WITH SESS

THE 17th session of the Paris Peace Conference, convened by the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and that of the U.S. Government was held in Paris on August 14.

Taking the floor first, Minister of State Dean Rusk pointed out that the Paris talks had been going on for exactly three months now, without making any progress, and that the U.S. ruling circles, while paying lip service to peace, actually continued to intensify their aggressive war.

During the past 3 months, the U.S. Government has been resorting to all diatribe maneuvers to balk the main issue which is the complete cessation of the bombing of the D.R.V.N. and studies to its unreasonable demand for "reciprocity." Meanwhile, in an attempt to ally criticism it has spread deceitful reports to induce people to think that the talks were making headway.

The D.R.V.N. envoy made it plain that though the U.S. ruling circles claimed that they had shown "restraint" and had "de-escalated" their fighting, they actually stepped up their unprecedented increases their aggressive war in Viet Nam. The envoy piled up evidence of the crimes against the Vietnamese people.

This has only contributed to stiffen the determination and dauntless fighting spirit of the Vietnamese people, Mr. Xuan Thuy said.

He recalled that the U.S. aircraft had been shot down in North Viet Nam so

far and highlighted the great achievements recorded by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people since the general offensive and insurrection of the spring of 1968.

He pointed out that 350,000 enemy troops including 130,000 men from the U.S. and 220,000 from the South Vietnamese countries, destroyed 4,400 aircraft, 8,730 military vehicles and nearly 500,000 tons of bombs and munitions. He also recalled that public opinion in the U.S. and abroad had condemned the stubborn attitude of the puppet administration's colonialist policy.

Reiterating the resolve of the Vietnamese people to fight against U.S. aggression, Mr. Xuan Thuy said:

"The Vietnamese people in both zones, North and South, have so far done no harm whatsoever to the security or honor of the U.S. It is to subvert the South Vietnamese people who have been winning victory after victory in their fight, and force them to accept U.S. neo-colonialism."

The U.S. has asserted that it respects the South Vietnamese people's right to "self-determination" but it has created the Saigon puppet administration and has used it as a pretext to intensify its aggression against the South Vietnamese people.

The U.S. has also used the pretext of the Ho Chi Minh joint communiqué of July 11, 1968, to demand a "honorable solution" put forth by President Johnson and his administration.

Mr. Xuan Thuy said that the U.S. has not moved a step to the victor South Vietnamese people, but has instead continued its brutal regime, instrument of the U.S. neo-colonialist policy.

Exposing the hypocrisy of the U.S. ruling circles' promise to the American people to do their utmost for a "de-Americanization" of the war in Viet Nam, the D.R.V.N. representative remarked that while U.S. propaganda was clamoring for a "de-Americanization" of the war, another American brigade was sent to South Viet Nam with a lot of American weapons and dollars in order to prevent the Saigon puppet administration's colonialist policy.

He also said that U.S. B-52 strategists used to drop bombs on the South Vietnamese swampy and jungled areas in the vicinity of Saigon and other cities, and pleaded for the continued introduction of additional American soldiers troops into South Viet Nam and admitted that such a step would be pursued to maintain what he called the "equilibrium" of the situation.

To cover up the aggressive nature of the U.S., he once again slandered the South Vietnamese people, and charged the D.R.V.N. with "aggression" and "terrorism" against Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

Refuting the U.S. chief negotiator's allegations, Mr. Xuan Thuy once more made it clear that the U.S. was

the aggressor and that the people throughout Viet Nam from North to South had the right to resist U.S. aggression and save their country.

He then dealt with the propaganda of the U.S. media. He pointed out that the D.R.V.N. had always respected the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia and Laos, and that it was the U.S. who was violating the border and territory of Cambodia and Laos, and that it was the U.S. who was waging a special war and flouting the fundamental national rights of the Lao people, Mr. Xuan Thuy said.

In conclusion, Minister of State Xuan Thuy declared:

"The Government of the D.R.V.N. demands that the U.S. stop unconditionally its bombing and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. This demand is the support of the American people and other peoples who are demanding peace loving government. This is why the U.S. must stop unconditionally its bombing and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N., there can be no prospects for a settlement of the Vietnam problem. The U.S. must bear full responsibility for its obduracy."

# Hanoi Press Opinion

## DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT IN THAILAND'S ANTI-U.S. MOVEMENT

ON January 31, 1968, the Thailand Patriotic Front came into being, marking a new development of the Thai people's struggle against the U.S. imperialism and its lackey forces. The Front set forth a program of action for the struggle for an independent, neutral, peaceful and democratic Thailand.

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## U.S. STRAWMEN MEET IN COMBATS

A series of meetings of U.S.-engineered organizations were recently held.

The Canberra meeting of the Asian and Pacific Council (A.P.C.) was nothing but a new attempt of the U.S. to get from its member countries better help for its policy of aggression in Indochina and Asia.

As for the Asian Parliamentary Union (A.P.U.) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (A.S.E.A.N.), the U.S. was trying to use the real intentions of their sponsors could not be hidden in spite of all the maquettes put up by the U.S. "economic co-operation cultural development," etc.

The creation of these organizations is part of the new policy of the U.S. regarding Asia, as the "Asian doctrine" expounded by Johnson in his July 12, 1966 speech.

This doctrine was essentially aimed at translating into reality, in a new form, the ideology of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which has failed in Europe.

The immediate objective of Johnson's Asian doctrine is to drag more Asian countries into the U.S. aggressive war against Viet Nam and camouflage its Americanization. The long-range strategic objective of this new policy is to knock the "non-aligned" countries together in a "solidarity organization" dominated by U.S. neo-colonialism and the national liberation movement in Asia.

However, like all other instruments of the U.S. A.P.C., A.S.E.A.N. and the like cannot but be the instruments of the U.S. to turn Thailand into a new-type colony and military base and in becoming a party to the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

## THE AMERICAN SIDE SHOWS ITSELF EVER MORE OBSTINATE

AT the 17th session of the official talks held in Paris the American representative referred to his ten "constructive proposals," but everyone knows that these are but machinations aimed at misrepresenting the real situation in Viet Nam, denigrating American aggression, and especially eluding the unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. and the demand that the American people should show "reciprocity," i.e. that they should put a premium on aggression.

The American representative put forward broad allegations contrary to facts and to the correct opinion held by the peoples of the world, the American people, and the peoples of the D.R.V.N.

The source of the war in Viet Nam is American aggression, yet the American representative asserted that it lies in "aggression" by North Viet Nam against South Viet Nam and that the American imperialists have been doing nothing but "defending freedom."

The American imperialists are the international gendarme, the aggressor, and the most egregious enemy of the Vietnamese people. The American representative declared that it lies in "aggression" by North Viet Nam against South Viet Nam and that the American imperialists have been doing nothing but "defending freedom."

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# THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

Editor's Note: - The D.R.V.N. has tackled socialist construction and in the first place, socialist industrialization from a backward agrarian economy, devastated to boot by 25 years of war. For over three years now it has been struggling to cope with a most ferocious air and naval war of destruction ever known in the history of mankind. The following story told by a young country girl who has become a school worker and T.U. cadre, will give our readers an idea of the humane plane, an idea of the process of socialist industrialization in our country which starts from or nearly from scratch and is carried on successfully despite U.S. bombing.

I was born after the 1945 October revolution. I was lucky enough not to have to experience these past miseries. I was born in a peaceful home and I grew up happily on my father's workshop.

Some times later, I finished my elementary school and started studying as much as I could. I learned from books, in life, in classroom and in my workshop.

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## A Young Woman Worker's Dream

me tirelessly. And I dreamt of becoming a worker.

Then one day I was taken there, an opportunity to work in the workshop. I began in the workshop, and after a month or so, I was promoted to a higher position. I was working in the workshop, and after a month or so, I was promoted to a higher position.

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## True Tales of People's War

### MOTHER NHAT'S 300 ANTI-U.S. "BOMBS"

FOR over three years, for each U.S. plane brought down by the North, Mother Nhat (Nguyen Huu village, Khat Chai district, Hanoi province) has given 300 cents into the "defeat-the-Yanks savings box." Regularly, she takes the money out and deposits it in the village Savings Bank.

On June 25, 1968, upon learning of the shooting down of the 300th U.S. plane over North Viet Nam, with immense joy, she slipped a new 10-cent note into the savings box. As all North Viet Nam was welcoming the happy event, with this 300th 10-cent note, Mother Nhat had lost by 300 cents.

Made a widow when her two sons were still little boys, she is 35 years old. She must raise her two sons on her own. In the anti-French war of resistance, her eldest son, a guerrilla fighter, had laid down his life. The hatred for the enemy and the memory of her fallen son spurred her to take an active part in the Resistance. She sheltered Resistance cadres engaged in underground activities in her locality.

In recent years, she had many times sent in applications for her younger son to join the army to fight the U.S. aggressor. The Village Party Committee and Administration Committee had her for a considerable time, but they had not yet received a reply. Mother Nhat was well aware that their refusal had of the Party and State for families with only sons and families of war martyrs. She thought hard to find a way for her son to do his share in the current anti-U.S. fight. Finally she opted for the course described above which was taken in response to the call of the Government.

### A COURAGEOUS BOY

THE day U.S. B-52's raided village X., in the Vinh Linh area, the Nguyen Van Kien family was asked by local authorities to move temporarily to safety in another place. All the children of the family were taken to the school of the 6th form, insisted on returning to his village to join the armymen and militants in fighting the Yanks.

Nguyen Van Kien could only carry away the triumph of the August 1945 Revolution, and his first and only son was born after the re-establishment of peace (July 1968). The old couple was deeply attached to their son from whom they would not willingly part for the rest of their life. But faced with his unbearable resolve, they gave way.

"All right. Stay behind and fight well, sonny!" they said.

Wasting no time, Nguyen Van Kien packed up his belongings to his mother and ran back as fast as his legs could carry him to the nearest A-Back Battery 4 manned by the militiamen. He started cleaning the shells and feeding the gun. In the midst of the fierce, the unit ran short of ammunition. It was not a long way to the position where the gun was. Nguyen Van Kien was not a soldier, but he was a brave boy. He was not a soldier, but he was a brave boy. He was not a soldier, but he was a brave boy.

The next day, the boy was given a rifle. He felt very delighted as he had been for long dreaming of a gun to shoot the U.S. aggressors. He was making headway in his village. He was not a soldier, but he was a brave boy. He was not a soldier, but he was a brave boy. He was not a soldier, but he was a brave boy.

helped efficiently by others. Little by little I got used to it and I was quite happy that my first experience in working with a gun helped me into maturity.

While going to all these places, I was not only a student, but also a worker. I finished the eighth class of general education (corresponding to the sixth form of French secondary school) and am now attending a 3-year course of an intermediate vocational school for workers. It is a very interesting and useful for my elders. I have spoken of my dreams. Many have come true. I am now a worker. I am now a worker. I am now a worker.





## Viet Nam in the Bosom of Africa and Asia

## A U.S. LOOTING RAID IN CAM RANH

*Ben Luc Bridge  
Blasted by P.L.A.F.*

VNA STATEMENT ON U.S. - PUPPET  
"RELEASE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE  
P.O.W.'S" FARCE

## Pathet Lao Radio Flays Harriman's Misrepresentation of Lao Situation

**THE READER**

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# Military Operations

NORTHERN PART OF  
SOUTH VIET NAM

**I**N the first nine days of August north of Quang Tri province, the P.L.A.F. ceaselessly hammered at the enemy in the sectors of Ca Lu, Tan Lam (on Highway No.9), Dong Ha, Cuc Viet, Con Thien and Gio Lich (see coast). Gist Phong Press Agency reported. They put out of action more than 850 enemy troops, mostly Americans, destroyed or damaged 15 vehicles including many tanks and a long-range cannon, burnt many depots of ammunition, fuel and military equipment. During many "sweeps" in the mountain regions south of that province the G.I.'s lost on July 30, 80 men (including all the commanding officers of a company) and had on August 6 and 9 100 men killed or wounded and 3 choppers downed.

West of Hue, an enemy raid launched on a 50 km. A Loc region failed out. This was admitted by General Zala, commanding U.S. Air Mobile Division 101. Thus, between August 4 and 8, 300 enemy soldiers had already been killed or wounded and 11 aircraft downed in this sector. Lastly on August 9, the P.L.A.F. assaulted units of U.S. Air Mobile 101 supported by armoured cars and armed helicopter Bm northeast of Hue, Western agencies reported.

CENTRAL VIET NAM

**I**n Da Nang region, between July 28 and August 6, the enemy took 550 casualties (mostly G.I.s) and had 3 choppers downed and 14 vehicles destroyed. The most remarkable battle occurred on August 3, about 40 kilometres north-south-east of Da Nang, in which all the 58 G.I.s on board 6 amphibious carriers escorted by 2 M-41 tanks were killed or wounded, the 8 vehicles were destroyed and all the weapons captured.

Also according to Western sources, on August 10 and 11, 30 km southwest of Da Nang, U.S. Marine of Regiment 5, Division 1, were both pursued by the P.L.A.F., who engaged the enemy in a fierce hand grenade fight. 25 km north of Quang Ngai town, near Cha Lai base, a post defended by two U.S. platoons and 3 puppet platoons was overrun on August 2 after 20 minutes' fighting: all the garrison (140 men) was killed or wounded; their weapons seized. On August 10, Western sources said, units of Brigade 198, of Division America, was badly mauled 20 km northwest of Quang Ngai and many choppers hit by guerrilla fire.

Gist Phong Press Agency reported further on July 22 that the P.L.A.F. won a brilliant victory near Tam Quan, 60 km north of Qui Nhon, over 3 columns of enemy armoured cars and mounted a successful attack on many enemy posts nearby: 200 enemy soldiers were killed

or wounded, 8 tanks and armoured cars destroyed together with 7 lorries, 2 cannons, a mortar, 4 fuel depots; 2 helicopters were downed. At Qui Nhon town, the P.L.A.F. assaulted an important enemy signal centre on August 12. Western sources announced.

SAIGON AREA

**T**HE P.L.A.F. has staged many devastating coups around Saigon against enemy river convoys. Gist Phong Press Agency reported. In the flooded forest of Ban Bat, 25 km southeast of Saigon within 6 hours on July 30, two 8,000 and 12,000-ton cargo-boats were damaged by P.L.A.F. shelling. The following day, a riverine task force coming there for a raid was intercepted in the Gulf of Hong Sai and 5 vessels burnt. On August 5, "Storm River Task Force" No. 37 was attacked southeast of Saigon and, as reported in our last issue, General F.M.

Davis Jr. was seriously wounded. Gist Phong Press Agency gave adverse losses as 100 vessels, burnt or sunk and 200 casualties.

Besides, 5 km south of Nha Be, the enemy suffered 300 casualties on August 7 and 8.

It is also reported that in the engagements southwest of Saigon, the enemy had on August 3 and 4, 200 G.I.s killed or wounded, 2 helicopters downed, and on August 6, too many puppet troops put out of action and 8 choppers downed near Hoa Nghia provincial capital, northwest of Saigon. Gist Phong Press Agency also related that a big battle has taken place on July 18 in Loc Ninh region (120 km north of Saigon) in which one American company had been decimated, two puppet companies burnt out, 30 armoured cars burnt and two choppers downed.

According to Western reports on August 7 and 8, units of U.S. Division 9 saw

tained heavy losses at Con Dao, 35 km south of Saigon, while on August 9, Hoa Nghia was pounded by artillery. It was reported by AFP to be the biggest engagement since the beginning of the lunar year.

MEKONG DELTA

**A**BOUT 80 km southwest of Saigon, on July 30 and August 1, the P.L.A.F. put out of action 200 enemy soldiers trying to clear Highway No. 4. On August 2, 170 km southwest of Saigon, they intercepted a riverine task force at Hoa Lu, sinking 3 vessels full of puppet soldiers and burning 3 landing craft. On the same evening, they bombarded batteries manned by American mercenaries near Hoa Lu.

## BEN TRE, CRADLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM "SIMULTANEOUS UPRISINGS"

**L**OATED in the Mekong Delta, Ben Tre, open to the wind of the Eastern Sea, is a province laced with an intricate network of rivers and canals. It is famous not only for its coconut groves and ricefields, the songs of its boatmen on the Ba Lai, the Gieng Trom, the Nam Luong, the Cao Dai... rivers, but also for its heroic sons and its long-haired guerrilla "long-haired" troops, the first in South Viet Nam, and especially for the movement of people's earth-shaking "simultaneous uprisings" of which it is the cradle.

In the present movement of generalized attacks and uprisings it is setting a brilliant example by combining armed struggle with political struggle, carrying out the three simultaneous spearhead offensives\* and inflicting upon the enemy setback after setback.

Right at the very start, the revolutionary masses rushed forward to wipe out Saigon thugs and the local puppet administration and cut off traffic, while units of Liberation troops and militia stabbed deep into the enemy's dens in cities and urban centres (Gieng Trom, Ba Tri, Mo Cay...) and throughout the countryside, throwing enemy troops into panic and disarray. In the impetus of its initial victories, with the close co-operation of the three kinds of armed forces (regular, regional and militia forces), of the army and the people of the countryside and the towns, Ben Tre has never ceased to provide itself with fresh facilities to wipe out masses of enemy soldiers.

The violent attack on the night of May 5, 1968 was a baroque blow at the puppet administration in the city.

The subsequent attack on the night of May 6 which threatened Highway No. 4, Ben Tre took on and tightened the encirclement of the city, forced the enemy to send in rescue troops. It resulted in 2 battalions of puppet regular Division 7 and on company of Rangers put out of action at Huu Dinh.

Ben Tre has particularly distinguished itself by riverine annihilation actions which have long been one of its traditional strong points.

Hardly had an entire convoy of 12 boats with one U.S. battalion on board been sent to the rescue of puppet troops at Huu Dinh and sunk on the Ba Lai river when on the Nam Luong river, regional militia troops of Mo Cay ambushed another enemy convoy, burning or sinking 3 U.S. boats at Dinh Tuy. The most recent victory took place on the Gieng Trom river (May 26 and 27) where 3 enemy boats were burnt or sunk and 1,500 G.I.s put out of action. Drawing lessons from these defeats, the Americans deployed 5,000 men (one U.S. brigade, one regiment of regular puppet troops) against the P.L.A.F. after a prior B-52 bombing of the villages nearby. Half of this troop strength was wiped out and 38 U.S. boats were sunk. The puppet regiment fled in great haste.

Most recently, on July 23 and 24, Ben Tre burnt or sank 23 enemy boats, putting out of action over 600 G.I.s on the Nam Luong and Gieng Trom rivers.

Thus, the "small riverine task force" tactic has gone baroque, the enemy being badly mauled on any river,

whether they come in small batches or in groups of boats.

Since the beginning of the period of widespread attacks and uprisings Ben Tre has wiped out or heavily depleted tens of U.S. and puppet battalions, burnt or sunk nearly 270 boats and cut off enemy key communication lines. It has also succeeded in liquidating whole battalions and sinking combat boats in the Mekong theatre.

Ben Tre has cleverly combined military offensives with mass uprisings.

Its famous "long-haired troops" consisting only of women overran the Cai Son post, captured the base of engineering troops at Rach Vong, disbanded or won over by their political struggle — one company of puppet militia, one puppet company at the Tan Thanh air-strip, 200 puppet militiamen in the Nam Luong area, Chet Say Bridge and tens of puppet platoons at Mo Cay, Gieng Trom, Ba Tri. Thousands of youths and Buddhist monks have come from newly liberated areas or Saigon-controlled territory to join the P.L.A.F. The people's power has been set up in the countryside and areas close to the urban centres, in a stirring atmosphere.

Holding high the flag of victory, Ben Tre fully deserves the 2nd class "Brass Wall of the Fatherland" Medal awarded by the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

\* Political offensive, military offensive, propaganda offensive, enemy military-rymes.



Liberation fighters and children of a newly liberated locality in South Viet Nam